

Thank you to all the brave men and women of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department who face diverse difficult challenges, even placing their lives on the line to serve us each day.

CONGRESSIONAL DIGITAL DAY OF ACTION

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the millions of women who now have access to essential preventive health services, including birth control, without financial barriers.

Nearly every American woman will choose to use birth control at some time in her life. It helps women plan for the time they are healthy enough and financially ready to start a family. That is better for her and for her family.

That is why the Institute of Medicine deemed it an essential preventive health service for women. Women across the Nation support it being available to them with no copay.

Now, some women have found that their bosses think they know better than they do, that their CEO has more at stake in her health care decisions than her doctor. This is not right. Every woman has the right to be in charge of her body and her health. Suggesting otherwise is offensive, out of touch, and out of bounds.

KEYSTONE XL

(Mr. WEBER of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my support for the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline.

As many Americans know, this pipeline will provide an immediate boost to our economy and strengthen national security. That is important. Ask the Ukrainians. This pipeline will create over 40,000 jobs, foster a more energy independent North America, bolster our Nation's weakened infrastructure system, contribute approximately \$3.4 billion to our GDP, and generate needed tax revenues in several States.

After a thorough review of the pipeline proposal, the State Department determined it would have no significant negative environmental impact.

The Department's inspector general also concluded that the pipeline's environmental impact study was sound. This is the latest in a slew of reports rejecting the administration's excuses on Keystone.

Mr. Speaker, this President has vowed that this will be a year of action. House Republicans urge him to act. He should immediately approve the Keystone XL pipeline and put Americans back to work.

I am RANDY WEBER, and there you have it.

INSURANCE-COVERED CONTRACEPTION

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the congressional digital day of action on the Hobby Lobby Supreme Court case. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, 27 million women have access to insurance-covered contraceptives. Nearly 2 million of those women come from my home State of Texas.

Unfortunately, Hobby Lobby, the largest importer in my district, asserts that employers should control the choices of women to have access to contraception and preventive care. However, 70 percent of Americans disagree with that heinous assertion.

While individuals have their own religious beliefs and consciences, businesses that employ thousands of hardworking Americans do not. The implication that a boss could potentially decide what health care treatments any employee can receive are more far-reaching than just contraceptive care.

What can be next? An employer denying coverage of routine immunizations or vaccinations because of religious belief?

It is offensive that an employer believes they have the right to make these personal decisions for their employees. I urge my colleagues to stand up and fight against this discriminatory action taken by Hobby Lobby.

THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, a headline in today's Roll Call reads:

White House, Democrats cry foul over GOP push to enforce immigration and other laws.

Really? The Constitution is clear about how our government is supposed to work. Congress makes the laws; the President enforces them. President Obama should know that, since he used to lecture about constitutional law.

The President isn't the first to stretch the bounds of executive authority, but the proper constitutional limits on the President's power are long in this administration's rearview mirror. He has disregarded laws that he disagrees with, even when they are his own.

The American people are demanding respect for the rule of law. They want our system of checks and balances restored so that their government reflects the will of all, not just one. That is why we passed the ENFORCE the Law Act yesterday, and that is why we will continue to demand the President do his job, not ours.

FALLING UNEMPLOYMENT AND FAIR PAY

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an issue impacting constituents in my district and all across the Nation. Recently, statistics were published lauding Texas' falling unemployment rate. Articles say that Texans are finding good jobs.

I want to rise today to speak on behalf of those that have a hard time making it each month. Many of these so-called good paying jobs, after working 40 hours a week, pay about \$15,000 a year. Sometimes these hardworking Americans have to work two or three jobs just to make it at the end of the month.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is that Texas families are hurting and struggling every day just to put food on the table and to put clothes on their kids' backs.

I was talking to a lady at Luby's just the other day that asked me, What are we going to do about the minimum wage? We need to vote on the minimum wage—H.R. 1010, that would raise the minimum wage and bring over 5 million Americans out of poverty.

I have signed the discharge petition and urge you to bring this bill up for a vote.

REMEMBERING PHILIP WOOD

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, last weekend 239 passengers on a Malaysian airplane were lost. As of this morning, I don't think we yet know their fate. According to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, one of those residents used to call Keller, Texas, home. I want to share with the body what his family had put out as a public statement:

Philip Wood was a man of God, a man of honor and integrity. His word was gold. Incredibly generous, creative, and intelligent, Phil cared about people, his family, and above all, Christ. Though our hearts are hurting, we know so many families around the world are affected, just as much as us, by this terrible tragedy. We ask for your prayers, not only for ourselves but for all involved during this difficult time.

As a family, we are sticking together through Christ to get through this. Thank you for your understanding.

Words I think we can all take to heart while we ponder the fate of those individuals lost on that plane.

EXTENDING EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. JOHNSON OF GEORGIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. I ran for Congress to help people. It is

past time to extend emergency unemployment insurance, and I am ready to vote to do so today.

Unfortunately, this Republican Congress is denying more than 2 million people across the country the opportunity to support their families and get back on their feet.

Extending emergency unemployment insurance is simply the right thing to do. Have Republicans lost their compassion or have they simply lost touch with reality? Every week, another 72,000 Americans run out of unemployment insurance. In Georgia, 75,000 people have already been cut off. This is supposed to be a lifeline for people who are involuntarily unemployed. No one wants to be unemployed.

It is essential we show the compassion our forefathers displayed when America was rebuilding itself after the Great Depression. We must come to compromise when it comes to helping those looking for work.

□ 1230

PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I stood here to advocate for better economic policies for women because what this Congress takes up week after week doesn't reflect the priorities of the women I talk to at home.

When I talk to the women in my district, the common thread is clear. Women just want a fair shot. They want to know, if they work hard and play by the rules, they will succeed and their families will succeed.

Unfortunately, there are some that just don't get it. Just last month, we had to fight against an unconscionable bill attacking a woman's right to choose her own health care decisions. The Hobby Lobby case the Supreme Court will hear in a few weeks will decide if a woman's boss can choose what type of care and medicine she can access.

When it comes to ensuring that women get a fair shot, we have to protect a woman's right to make her own health care decisions and her ability to plan for her family and her future.

That is why I am proud to stand with my colleagues from the Pro-Choice Caucus in signing the amicus brief to ask our Supreme Court to protect this critical right for women and their families.

EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO CHOOSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, just as the storied competition between the New

York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox works to improve both teams, so does school choice and empowering families to choose the public school that best fits their kids to improve all of our public schools.

Our Education and the Workforce Committee this week had an excellent hearing on charter schools, which I encourage my colleagues to look at the record of. We heard testimony from across the country about the tremendous role that charter schools are playing as part of our public education system in ensuring that all students have access to a quality education.

In addition to charter schools, making sure that States have policies like Colorado does for open enrollment within a district and between districts, parents should be empowered to choose their neighborhood school, a magnet school, a charter school, another public school, with an educational model that fits the unique learning needs of their kid.

In this way, we can ensure that the next generation of American children are prepared to succeed in the 21st century.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 13, 2014 at 9:39 a.m.: that the Senate passed S. 611.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN W. MCCARTER AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 32) providing for the reappointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S.J. RES. 32

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of John W. McCarter of Illinois on March 14, 2014, is filled by the reappointment of the incumbent. The reappointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on March 15, 2014, or the date of enactment of this joint resolution, whichever occurs later.

The joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3189, WATER RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4015, SGR REPEAL AND MEDICARE PROVIDER PAYMENT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 17, 2014, THROUGH MARCH 21, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 515 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 515

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3189) to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer, relinquishment, or other impairment of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such